

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Currently Amended) A method for telecommunication conferencing in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the method comprising:
 - receiving an incoming call leg at a switching center as the result of a person placing the incoming call leg to a primary directory number, the incoming call leg designating the primary directory number;
 - determining a plurality of secondary directory numbers associated with the primary directory number;
 - processing and routing an outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number of the plurality of secondary directory numbers to form a plurality of outgoing call legs;
 - monitoring the plurality of outgoing call legs for a plurality of answering events;
 - and
 - connecting outgoing call legs associated with the plurality of answering events to the incoming call leg for a multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session;
 - continuing to alert an unanswered outgoing call leg, of the plurality of outgoing call legs, until a predetermined period of time has elapsed;
 - when the predetermined period of time has elapsed, releasing any outgoing call leg, of the plurality of outgoing call legs, which has remained unanswered;
 - when a second predetermined period of time has elapsed during the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session, the switching center processing and routing a

second outgoing call leg to a corresponding secondary directory number associated with a previously unanswered outgoing call leg;

monitoring answering of the second outgoing call leg; and

when the second outgoing call leg has been answered, connecting the second outgoing call leg to the incoming call leg for the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
when the second outgoing call leg has not been answered prior to an expiration of a third predetermined period of time, releasing the second outgoing call leg.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the predetermined period of time is determined from a no answer time parameter.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
terminating the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of the incoming call leg.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, further comprising:
terminating the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of a penultimate call leg remaining from a plurality of call legs forming the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
terminating the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of the incoming call leg.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
terminating the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of a penultimate call leg remaining from a plurality of call legs forming the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.
12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) A method for telecommunication conferencing in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the method comprising:

receiving an incoming call leg as the result of a person placing the incoming call leg to a primary directory number, the incoming call leg designating the primary directory number;

determining a plurality of secondary directory numbers associated with the primary directory number, wherein the plurality of secondary directory numbers corresponding to the primary directory number and a conference mode designation are predefined and stored in a database;

processing and routing an outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number of the plurality of secondary directory numbers to form a plurality of outgoing call legs;

monitoring the plurality of outgoing call legs for a plurality of answering events; and

connecting outgoing call legs associated with the plurality of answering events to the incoming call leg for a multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session; and,

providing an interface with the database for subscriber determination of the plurality of secondary directory numbers and a conferencing mode.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

terminating the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of the incoming call leg.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising:

terminating the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of a penultimate call leg remaining from a plurality of call legs forming the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.

17. (Previously Presented) A method for telecommunication conferencing in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the method comprising:

receiving an incoming call leg as the result of a person placing the incoming call

leg to a primary directory number, the incoming call leg designating the primary directory number;

determining a plurality of secondary directory numbers associated with the primary directory number;

differentially processing and routing each outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number of the plurality of secondary directory numbers to provide concurrent alerting of a corresponding plurality of outgoing call legs;

monitoring the plurality of outgoing call legs for a plurality of answering events; and,

connecting outgoing call legs associated with the plurality of answering events to the incoming call leg for a multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.

18. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the switching center includes further instructions to terminate the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of the incoming call leg.

19. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the switching center includes further instructions to terminate the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of a penultimate call leg remaining from a plurality of call legs forming the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.

20. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 22, wherein the database comprises a home location register.

21. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 20, wherein the switching center comprises a mobile switching center.

22. (Previously Presented) A system for telecommunication conferencing in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the system comprising:

a database having stored in a memory a plurality of secondary directory numbers associated with a primary directory number which is designated when a person places a call; and

a switching center coupled to the database, the switching center having an interface for receiving an incoming call leg designating the primary directory number

and for processing and routing each outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number of the plurality of secondary directory numbers to form a plurality of outgoing call legs, and wherein the switching center includes instructions to monitor the plurality of outgoing call legs for a plurality of answering events, to connect outgoing call legs associated with the plurality of answering events, to the incoming call leg for a multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session, when the predetermined period of time has elapsed, to release any outgoing call leg, of the plurality of outgoing call legs, which has remained unanswered, and, when a second predetermined period of time has elapsed, to process and route a second outgoing call leg to a corresponding secondary directory number associated with a previously unanswered outgoing call leg; to monitor answering of the second outgoing call leg; and when the second outgoing call leg has been answered, to connect the second outgoing call leg to the incoming call leg for the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.

23. (Original) The system of claim 22, wherein the switching center includes further instructions, when the second outgoing call leg has not been answered prior to an expiration of a third predetermined period of time, to release the second outgoing call leg.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the switching center includes further instructions to terminate the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of the incoming call leg.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the switching center includes further instructions to terminate the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of a penultimate call leg remaining from a plurality of call legs forming the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the database comprises a home location register.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 29, wherein the switching center is a mobile switching center.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Previously Presented) A system for telecommunication conferencing in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the system comprising:

a database having stored in a memory a plurality of secondary directory numbers associated with a primary directory number which is designated when a person places a call;

a switching center coupled to the database, the switching center having an interface for receiving an incoming call leg designating the primary directory number and for processing and routing each outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number of the plurality of secondary directory numbers to form a plurality of outgoing call legs, and wherein the switching center includes instructions to monitor the plurality of outgoing call legs for a plurality of answering events and to connect outgoing call legs associated with the plurality of answering events, to the incoming call leg for a multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session; and

an interface coupled to the database for subscriber determination of the plurality of secondary directory numbers and a corresponding conference mode.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the switching center includes further instructions to terminate the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of the incoming call leg.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the switching center includes further instructions to terminate the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of a penultimate call leg remaining from a plurality of call legs forming the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.

32. (Previously Presented) A system for telecommunication conferencing in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the system comprising:

a database having stored in a memory a plurality of secondary directory numbers associated with a primary directory number which is designated when a person places a call; and

a switching center coupled to the database, the switching center having an interface for receiving an incoming call leg designating the primary directory number

and for differentially process and route each outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number of the plurality of secondary directory numbers to provide concurrent alerting of a corresponding plurality of outgoing call legs, and wherein the switching center includes instructions to monitor the plurality of outgoing call legs for a plurality of answering events and to connect outgoing call legs associated with the plurality of answering events, to the incoming call leg for a multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.

33. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the database is a home location register.

34. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 32, wherein the switching center is a mobile switching center.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)

37. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the processor includes further instructions to terminate the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of the incoming call leg .

38. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the processor includes further instructions to terminate the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of a penultimate call leg remaining from a plurality of call legs forming the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.

39. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for telecommunication conferencing in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the apparatus comprising:

a network interface for reception of an incoming call leg as the result of a person placing the incoming call leg to a primary directory number, the incoming call leg designating the primary directory number and for transmission of an outgoing call leg;

a memory, the memory storing a plurality of secondary directory numbers associated with the primary directory number; and

a processor coupled to the network interface and to the memory, the processor including instructions to process and route each outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number of the plurality of secondary directory numbers to form a plurality of outgoing call legs; the processor including further instructions to monitor the plurality of outgoing call legs for a plurality of answering events, to connect outgoing call legs associated with the plurality of answering events, to the incoming call leg for a multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session, and when a second predetermined period of time has elapsed, to process and route a second outgoing call leg to a corresponding secondary directory number associated with a previously unanswered outgoing call leg; to monitor answering of the second outgoing call leg; and when the second outgoing call leg has been answered, to connect the second outgoing call leg to the incoming call leg for the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.

40. (Original) The apparatus of claim 39, wherein the processor includes further instructions, when the second outgoing call leg has not been answered prior to an expiration of a third predetermined period of time, to release the second outgoing call leg.

41. (Canceled)

42. (Canceled)

43. (Canceled)

44. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the processor includes further instructions to terminate the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of the incoming call leg .

45. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the processor includes further instructions to terminate the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of a penultimate call leg remaining from a plurality of call legs forming the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session .

46. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for telecommunication conferencing in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the apparatus comprising:

a network interface for reception of an incoming call leg as the result of a person placing the incoming call leg to a primary directory number, the incoming call leg designating the primary directory number and for transmission of an outgoing call leg;

a memory, the memory storing a plurality of secondary directory numbers associated with the primary directory number; and

a processor coupled to the network interface and to the memory, the processor including instructions to process and route each outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number of the plurality of secondary directory numbers to form a plurality of outgoing call legs; the processor including further instructions to monitor the plurality of outgoing call legs for a plurality of answering events, and to connect outgoing call legs associated with the plurality of answering events, to the incoming call leg for a multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session, wherein the apparatus is coupled to an interface for subscriber determination of the plurality of secondary directory numbers and a corresponding conference mode.

47. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the processor includes further instructions to terminate the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of the incoming call leg.

48. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 49, wherein the processor includes further instructions to terminate the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of a penultimate call leg remaining from a plurality of call legs forming the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.

49. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for telecommunication conferencing in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the apparatus comprising:

a network interface for reception of an incoming call leg as the result of a person placing the incoming call leg to a primary directory number, the incoming call leg designating the primary directory number and for transmission of an outgoing call leg;

a memory, the memory storing a plurality of secondary directory numbers associated with the primary directory number; and

a processor coupled to the network interface and to the memory, the processor including instructions to differentially process and route each outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number of the plurality of secondary directory numbers to provide concurrent alerting of a corresponding plurality of outgoing call legs; the processor including further instructions to monitor the plurality of outgoing call legs for a plurality of answering events, and to connect outgoing call legs associated with the plurality of answering events, to the incoming call leg for a multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.

50. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 52, wherein upon reception of a LocationRequest containing the pilot directory number, the home location register transmits an ANSI-41 compatible LocationRequest RETURN RESULT to the mobile switching center, the ANSI-41 compatible LocationRequest RETURN RESULT containing a listing of each secondary directory number, the conference parameter, and corresponding routing, answering and terminating parameters for each secondary directory number.

51. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53, wherein upon reception of a LocationRequest containing the pilot directory number, the home location register transmits an ANSI-41 compatible LocationRequest RETURN RESULT to the mobile switching center, the ANSI-41 compatible LocationRequest RETURN RESULT containing a listing of each secondary directory number, the conference parameter, and corresponding routing, answering and terminating parameters for each secondary directory number.

52. (Previously Presented) A system for telecommunication conferencing in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the apparatus comprising:

- a home location register having stored in a memory a plurality of secondary directory numbers and a conference parameter associated with a pilot directory number;

- a mobile switching center coupled to the home location register, the mobile switching center further having an interface for receiving an incoming call leg as the result of a person placing the incoming call leg to a primary directory number, the incoming call leg designating the pilot directory number, for determining whether the

pilot directory number and its associated plurality of secondary directory numbers are configured for a conference mode, and when configured for the conference mode, for processing and routing an outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number to form a plurality of outgoing call legs, the mobile switching center including instructions to monitor the plurality of outgoing call legs for a plurality of answering events; and

a conference bridge coupled to the mobile switching center, the conference bridge including instructions to connect a plurality of outgoing call legs associated with the plurality of answering events to the incoming call leg for a multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session, wherein the mobile switching center includes further instructions, when a second predetermined period of time has elapsed, to process and route a second outgoing call leg to a corresponding secondary directory number associated with a previously unanswered outgoing call leg; to monitor answering of the second outgoing call leg; and when the second outgoing call leg has been answered, to direct the conference bridge to connect the second outgoing call leg to the incoming call leg for the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session, and wherein the mobile switching center includes further instructions, when the second outgoing call leg has not been answered prior to an expiration of a third predetermined period of time, to release the second outgoing call leg.

53. (Previously Presented) A system for telecommunication conferencing in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the apparatus comprising:

a home location register having stored in a memory a plurality of secondary directory numbers and a conference parameter associated with a pilot directory number;

a mobile switching center coupled to the home location register, the mobile switching center further having an interface for receiving an incoming call leg as the result of a person placing the incoming call leg to a primary directory number, the incoming call leg designating the pilot directory number, for determining whether the pilot directory number and its associated plurality of secondary directory numbers are configured for a conference mode, and when configured for the conference mode, for processing and routing an outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number to form a plurality of outgoing call legs, the mobile switching center including instructions to monitor the plurality of outgoing call legs for a plurality of answering

events;

a conference bridge coupled to the mobile switching center, the conference bridge including instructions to connect a plurality of outgoing call legs associated with the plurality of answering events to the incoming call leg for a multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session; and an interface coupled to the home location register for subscriber determination of the plurality of secondary directory numbers and the conference parameter.

54. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the mobile switching center includes further instructions to terminate the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of the incoming call leg.

55. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 53, wherein the mobile switching center includes further instructions to terminate the multiple leg telecommunication conference session upon termination of a penultimate call leg remaining from a plurality of call legs forming the multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.

56. (Previously Presented) A system for telecommunication conferencing in a multiple leg telecommunication session, the apparatus comprising:

a home location register having stored in a memory a plurality of secondary directory numbers and a conference parameter associated with a pilot directory number;

a mobile switching center coupled to the home location register, the mobile switching center further having an interface for receiving an incoming call leg as the result of a person placing the incoming call leg to a primary directory number, the incoming call leg designating the pilot directory number, for determining whether the pilot directory number and its associated plurality of secondary directory numbers are configured for a conference mode, and when configured for the conference mode, for processing and routing an outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number to form a plurality of outgoing call legs, the mobile switching center including instructions to monitor the plurality of outgoing call legs for a plurality of answering events, and instructions to differentially process and route each outgoing call leg associated with each secondary directory number of the plurality of secondary directory numbers to provide concurrent alerting of the plurality of outgoing call legs; and

the plurality of answering events to the incoming call leg for a multiple leg telecommunication conferencing session.

57. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 56, wherein upon reception of a LocationRequest containing the pilot directory number, the home location register transmits an ANSI-41 compatible LocationRequest RETURN RESULT to the mobile switching center, the ANSI-41 compatible LocationRequest RETURN RESULT containing a listing of each secondary directory number, the conference parameter, and corresponding routing, answering and terminating parameters for each secondary directory number.